

District III Advisory Board Minutes

www.wichita.gov

**March 3, 2004
7:00 p.m.**

**Colvin Neighborhood City Hall
2820 S. Roosevelt**

The District III Advisory Board meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Colvin Neighborhood City Hall at 2820 S. Roosevelt. The District III City Council member, Phil Lambke and eight (8) District Advisory Board members were in attendance. Five (5) City staff were present and approximately eight (8) members of the public, most of whom signed in.

Members Present

Judy Dillard
Charlotte Foster
Phyllis Hall
Joann Hartig
Matt Foley
John Kemp
Jim Gulick
Bill Ward
CM Phil Lambke

Members Absent

Laura Simpson

Staff Present

Vicki Mork
Officer Hinnens
Kendall Niquette
Talbert Showalter
Jan Chatman

Guests

see page

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Council Member Lambke called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for February 11, 2004 were approved unanimously 8-0. Motion made by **Foster (Gulick)**.

Action: Received and filed.

Public Agenda

1. Scheduled Items

None scheduled at this time.

2. Off-agenda items

There were no issues of concern addressed.

Staff Presentation

3. Wichita Transit

Talbert Showalter began his presentation on **Recertification of Paratransit Eligible Passengers** by explaining the factors leading up to this. He asked if anyone in audience would be affected by this change. A couple responded saying their daughter used the services. **Showalter** explained that all persons currently receiving services through Para transit are self certified with physician verification when needed. Riders have increased by 322% since the program was implemented in 1992 and the current equipment is at maximum capacity. He assured the couple that their daughter would be fairly evaluated and if she needed the service she would continue to receive it.

Hartig asked about the re-certification process. **Showalter** said the current system of certification lacked information about the patron's disability and their functional ability. He explained the recertification was not a witch-hunt aimed at preventing disabled patrons from using the Paratransit services. The process would fully and fairly evaluate all current Paratransit riders with an in-person interview and a functional assessment by a third party. It will take three years to evaluate all current riders. He stressed these guidelines were developed in conjunction with the Mobility Advisory Task Force comprised of agency representatives and stakeholders in the community.

Foley expressed concern that the testing would create insurmountable situations or be intimidating about wheelchairs. **Showalter** explained changes had been implemented in the fixed bus routes accommodating disabled riders to assist transitioned van passenger they planned to offer travel training. It is not their intention to move all wheel chair Para transit users to fixed bus routes.

Kemp asked for clarification on securing wheel chairs on fixed route busses. **Talbert** explained the buses have a ramp that extends to the curb and wheel chairs roll right in the bus. The bus drivers tie down the wheel chairs in a special location near the front of the bus once the person parks but the drivers don't touch the joysticks or brakes on the wheel chairs.

Foster asked about people that needed help getting to the bus and if the condition of riders varies greatly. **Talbert** explained that their services began at the door of the bus or van. If a patron needed a personal assistant they could ride free of charge. The majority of clients receiving Para transit will continue to receive services. He also reminded everyone that fixed route buses would stop anywhere not just at corners or bus stops.

Hall suggested that existing riders be left alone and only new customers be evaluated. Phyllis thinks they are wasting money spending more to evaluate than to give them rides. **Showalter** responded saying they had to evaluate everyone otherwise they would be discriminatory and evaluations are needed as their equipment is utilized to the maximum at this time. **Hall** expressed concerns that disabled persons may not qualify even though they need the services. **Showalter** explained Wichita has to meet the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Foley asked how many riders are in wheel chairs and acknowledged it must be hard to make judgment about how to best serve varied person with disabilities. **Showalter** says roughly 12% of the patrons are wheel chair bound while 82% are ambulatory.

Ward commented that the statistics show 18% of riders use 21% of the budget suggested that 4% savings isn't worth worrying about. **Talbert** explained they are at capacity so they either have to buy more vans or evaluate rider ship to see who all qualifies. They are unable to selectively evaluate customers.

Gulick, former transit board member, explained the self-certification process that has been in place for 12 years is not very evaluative and is as easy as getting a handicapped parking tag. He said that granting Para transit rights last forever and when he was on the transit board 12 years ago they thought this would be problematic.

Talbert reiterated the re-certification recommendations were made in conjunction with other agencies in Wichita including Kansas Elks Training Center and the Independent Living Resource Center. This process is being implemented in many other cities not just Wichita.

Talbert said the re-certification process would occur every 3 years. Experience has shown that many clients won't even show up for assessments, nationally 20% haven't appeared probably because they know they won't qualify. He also explained riders wouldn't be subjected to hardship for the evaluation process. The proposed application will be much longer than what is currently being used to gather more information.

Elena Ingle, 3608 Meadow Lane is concerned about evaluating mental capabilities for borderline persons. **Talbert** explained if there is any doubt the rider will be approved. Reiterated they are very interested in providing services to the needy folks not unnecessarily eliminating truly handicapped persons.

Dillard referred to e-mail from Lyndon Drew Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent Program concerned about seniors being eliminated.

A citizen questioned bus routes no longer going into neighborhoods and no bus benches. **Talbert** said bus routes were changed due to budget cuts and arterial routes were emphasized. He is working on placing bus shelters in the most important places.

Marge Zakourn Vaughn, advocate for senior citizens recommends that DAB III vote no to the proposed recertification service. She does not support spending money on tests instead of

human services. She contended the ADA does not require strict guidelines and takes exception to the proposed change. She's concerned that people who need the services won't be able to receive them. She also made a pitch for supporting Foster Grandparent program the participants rely heavily on Paratransit and she believes that with out the participation the people will vegetate at home.

Action Taken: Foley (Gulick) made motion to approve Transit plan. Motion passed 6:2.

Board Agenda

4. Updates, Issues, and Reports

Vicki Mork, Neighborhood Assistant reported that a unified zoning code interpretation had been issued by Kurt Schroeder. It allowed consideration of the property at 2347 S. Dellrose as a convalescent home, which will permit the use of the property as a facility for home births. **Ward** said his neighborhood association is concerned about proper disposal of blood born pathogens and they are working with the Environmental Health Department.

CM Lambke brought up the issue of the Cornejo Construction & Demolition Landfill. The Wichita City Council on a 5-2 vote approved it for a one-year extension. **Lambke** wants to refer it back to MAPC as it was a tie vote 4-4. **Marty and Ron Cornejo** are in attendance tonight. **Council Member Lambke** would like to facilitate a process of co-operation between the landfill and the surrounding neighborhood. Depending upon the court's ruling, the Construction and Demolition Landfill could remain open until it's full. **CM Lambke** asked for volunteers and will work out a time for a meeting for all. Some concessions may be possible in the operation of the landfill. **Kemp** declined to be on the committee but **Hartig** and **Gulick** agreed. **Vicki Mork**, Neighborhood Assistant will set up the meeting and notify everyone.

Ron Cornejo said he was surprised at the recent opposition, as he hadn't heard from anyone in the past year. He reminded the group that even if the landfill is closed down the rock crusher operation will remain. He contends it is responsible for a lot of the dust. He is extending the berm and the tree line and is considering the extension of hard surface roads into landfill. Unfortunately customers come in from time to time, usually on windy days with paper or insulation that flies all over. He explained that on very windy days they close the landfill down. He is working on planting trees and over seeding grass and he wants to work with neighborhoods and to be a good neighbor.

Lambke stated there are two main issues, trash and dust. **Ron Cornejo** explained sometimes trucks come in and it is not apparent until they dump their load that they have loose paper, roofing materials, or insulation. **CM Lambke** suggested they should be banned from the landfill in the future.

Ward (Hartig) made motion to adjourn approved unanimously.

5. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting for District Advisory Board III will be April 7, 2004 at Colvin Neighborhood City Hall at 7:00 p.m.

No Action Required

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Mork, Neighborhood Assistant

Visitors

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Carole Campbell | 2821 S. Mosley |
| Talbert Showalter | 777 E. Waterman |
| Marty Cornejo | 2000 E. Tulsa |
| Ron Cornejo | 2000 E. Tulsa |
| Kendall Niquette | City of Wichita |
| Elena Ingle | 3608 Meadow Lane |
| Leola Jones | 3702 Meadow Lane |
| Ron & RJ Bronghton | 2248 S. Minneapolis Ct. |
| Jan Chatman | City of Wichita |
| Marge Zdkonna Vaughan | 1033 Eastern |